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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ARA - Mr. Holland

DATE: July 8, 1954

FROM : ARA - Robert F. Woodward

SUBJECT: Methods of Encouraging Democratic Government in Guatemala

There are five principal ways in which I believe we might be able to make some progress in encouraging democratic attitudes and policies on the part of the new Guatemalan Government:

1. By utilizing the relation of confidence which Ambassador Peurifoy must already have begun to develop by virtue of his recent participation in the settlement in San Salvador and the moral support of the United States Government which has been clearly indicated to Castillo. I believe Ambassador Peurifoy should naturally give discreet advice and counsel to Castillo on significant measures where he sees any tendency to move toward unnecessarily dictatorial, repressive policies.

2. By making use of the sense of obligation which Castillo must feel toward Presidents Galvez and Somoza on the one hand and toward President Osorio on the other. I believe it would be advisable to ask our Ambassadors in those three countries to express to these Presidents our earnest hope that they will give Castillo the benefit of their long experience in winning the support of their peoples.

3. By having Ambassador Peurifoy discuss with Castillo the possibility that it would be of both practical and propaganda use to the new Guatemalan Government if such an outstanding liberal figure as Governor Muñoz Marín were to be invited to visit Guatemala at a suitable time in the not too distant future.

4. By giving every kind of practicable encouragement to the development of prosperity in Guatemala so that the people are increasingly content. I believe there are great possibilities for the development of the tourist business in particular, especially after the Inter-American Highway is completed.

5. By the full utilization of facilities of the USIA, aiming not only at the Guatemalan people but at the Guatemalan Government.

ARA:RFWoodward:glb

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